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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 60% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 78,041 | Nifty 23,587 | Gold 76,030 | Silver 87,405 | Dollar 85.01 | Euro 88.40 | GBP 106.69

Are we in a blockbuster film, wonder HBR Layout residents as persons belonging to what they call 'timber mafia' swing by without permission to decimate healthy tree

CHOPPERS STOP

Deputy Range Forest officer confirms he has not okayed axing

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For residents of HBR Layout, it was a strange sight to see what they believe are members of a timber mafia, halt in their locality, cut a perfectly healthy tree and pack away the logs in broad daylight. The so-called timber mafia is not afraid of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Forest Department or jurisdictional police, it would seem.

Some of the residents approached the men, who immediately dropped some elected representative's name. They carried on with their job, and left. There was not much the residents could do.

The axe brigade made quick work of the tree standing on 5th Block, HBR Layout; logs were neatly carried away to an unknown place

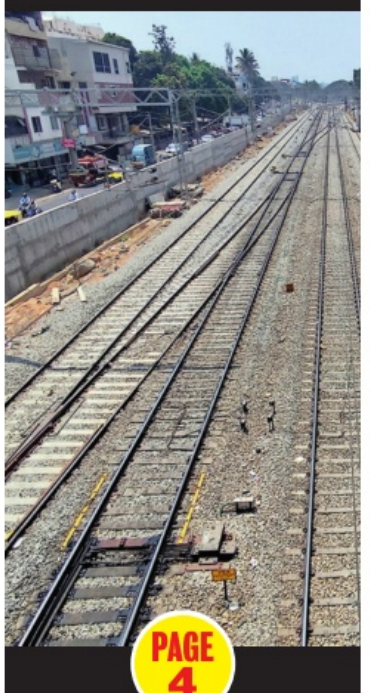
"I tried my best to contact the BBMP Deputy Forest Range Officer but he remained unavailable. The Deputy Range Forest Officer did not bother to respond and forgot about his responsibility to protect trees from the timber mafia. I have also raised the issue during a meeting with the nodal officer of this ward on Wednesday," said Satish T, a resident.

Satish said that he was shocked to see the workers cutting the tree on 5th Cross without any fear. "I demanded that the workers show us the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

BEST FOOT FORWARD

Experts say big-ticket infra not the answer, but integrated network combining Metro and suburban rail can be



PAGE 4

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THINGS TO DO

01 Carols in the air

Listen to Christmas Carols with the renowned St Patrick's Choir led by Haron Chang. Christmas carols are a symbol of tradition, celebrating toegtherness in music. Haron Chang and his team promise to mesmerise the audience with their angel voices. **Where: Cubbon Bandstand; When: December 22, 8 am**

02 Relatable comedy

Stand-up comedy featuring two artists. Manish Jain is in his 30s (1990 man) and Vishal Sivakumar is in his 20s (1999 boy), and both have been doing stand-up since 2018. The show has jokes from their life experiences that are relatable to both generations. **Where: Ministry of Comedy, Koramangala; When: December 21, 9 pm**

03 Musical heaven

Prepare to be swept off your feet by the legendary trio of Shankar Mahadevan, Ehsaan Noorani, and Loy Mendonsa as they set the stage on fire with their electrifying music and soul-stirring melodies. **Where: New Horizon College of Engineering; When: December 21, 7 pm**

04 Rock age

Get ready for an unforgettable night as Kee Marcello, legendary guitarist of EUROPE—Sweden's biggest rock export—takes the stage. Marcello and his all-star band will deliver a high-energy performance of EUROPE's greatest hits, transporting you back to the golden age of rock. **Where: Orion Mall, Rajajinagar; When: December 21, 6 pm**

05 Bollywood blast

Madhur Sharma will be performing live in Bangalore. This event promises an exciting evening filled with soulful melodies from one of India's rising stars, known for his work in Bollywood and Indi-pop. ock. **Where: Phoenix Market City, Whitefield; When: December 28, 7 pm**

06 Mehfil expo

The entertainment and retail space of India brings people, products, artisans, and performers from various walks of life together. **Where: St Joseph's Indian Composite Preuniversity; When: December 22, 12 pm**

Artist who brings stolen sculptures to life on canvas

On display at India Art Festival, Sathya Gowthaman's work 'Sculptures On Canvas' is ode to lost heritage

Bengaluru-based artist brings awareness to smuggled sculptures from India through her 3D artworks

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Sathya Gowthaman, a Bengaluru-based contemporary realist artist, is bringing awareness regarding smuggled sculptures from India through her unique 3D artworks. Currently on display at the India Art Festival, her series 'Sculptures On Canvas' brings to life smuggled sculptures, allowing the audience to visualise their lost heritage.

In conversation with Bangalore Mirror, Sathya said that a majority of the sculptures painted have been smuggled out of India and are on display in museums abroad. These sculptures belong to the Chola period, from 8-12th century AD, which is considered the Golden Age of South India for art, architecture, and literature. A minority of the sculptures also belong from the Vijayanagara period.

An agricultural engineer by education, Sathya is a self-taught artist with a part-time diploma in Western Arts from the National Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in Singapore. She later honed her skills under the guidance of established artist Gnanadickam. Born and brought up in Tamil Nadu, known for its ancient temples and architecture, Sathya grew up in awe of the Dravidian temples and their art and architecture, especially the Chola bronzes. This fascination built over time and turned into a drive to bring awareness to the lost sculptures and the importance of preserving India's heritage. Speaking about her journey as an artist, she said, "I've always remained keen towards art, even as a child, but had to pursue engineering due to it being a favourable career option a few decades ago. Nevertheless, in my later years, I have nurtured my passion. As children, we were always taken to temples on vacation; visiting these spiritual sites was a source of entertainment. There remained a connection to these roots, leading to the theme of exploring smuggled art."

> **"Audiences abroad especially resonate with my work due to their lack of a close relationship with home**
> – Sathya Gowthaman

Sathya portrays her subjects in 3D, through multiple layers of oil paint. The textures in the background add an element of intrigue to her works, giving her audience a chance to appreciate India's heritage and become aware of the importance of preserving our inheritance. She has exhibited her works at many international art fairs like Affordable Art fair, Art Stage, Tatinis - Singapore, India Art Festival - Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and many other exhibitions under Gnani Arts Gallery and others since 2016. Her artworks are owned by private collectors across the world.

"Collectors across the world have a moral obligation to ensure the artwork on their hands has not been sourced through tainted methods. While many of the original sculptures of my artwork remain in museums and with collectors, many have made their way back home through the years due to initiatives from activists and awareness," Sathya said on a positive note, stressing the need to bring awareness regarding the issue of stolen sculptures.

"Audiences abroad especially resonate with my work due to their lack of a close relationship with home. Viewers back home are becoming more aware," she said.

Caretaker turns thief, steals gold worth ₹11 lakh

Woman quits soon after joining and employer finds valuables missing from the house; burglary and 2-wheeler theft cases cracked

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Arrested burglar admits to having broken into several homes in city; arrest leads to recovery of gold, silver and other valuables

A woman has been implicated in the case of stealing from her employer when she was working as a caretaker in Bhuvaneswari Nagar. She is accused of having stolen 157 grams of gold jewellery, valued at 11.5 lakh. A complaint in this regard was filed on November 18. According to the complaint, the woman joined as a caretaker in December 2023 but quit in January 2024, citing health issues. During her employment, she allegedly stole gold ornaments from a cupboard while the family was away.

Upon receiving the complaint, Baiyappanahalli Police launched an investigation, leading to the arrest of the accused on November 21, from her residence on Bannerghatta Road. She confessed to the thefts and to pawning the jewellery in shops in Nagawara Palya and JP Nagar. During this period, the police seized 26 grams of gold jewellery from a Nagavarapalya shop on November 25 and on November 28, 131 grams of gold was recovered from the Ruby Gold Pawn Shop in JP Nagar.

With all stolen jewellery accounted for, the police secured 157 grams of gold, restoring the complainant's assets.

Burglar caught

The Koramangala police have arrested a man involved in a string of thefts, recovering 109 grams of gold, 1.5 kg of silver articles, and two two-wheelers worth 9.5 lakh.

A resident of Koramangala had filed a complaint that when they returned from Chennai on December 7, they found their house was broken into. Valuables worth 5 lakh, including gold and silver articles, had been stolen. Investigations led to the arrest of the accused on December 10 from a jewellery shop in Koramangala. He was caught with 50 grams of gold, a two-wheeler, and a rod used for breaking locks. Upon interrogation, the suspect confessed to multiple thefts and revealed that he had handed over stolen items to friends in Hosur and Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu, for sale.

Subsequent operations successfully led to the recovery of 1.5 kg of silver and 59 grams of gold from his accomplices on December 12 and 13. Additionally, a stolen two-wheeler was recovered from a vacant lot near the Passport Office. The accused's confession unravelled five other theft cases linked to Koramangala and HSR Layout, including house burglaries and vehicle thefts.

2-wheeler thefts

The Hebbal police have arrested two individuals involved in a series of two-wheeler thefts across Bengaluru. A total of 20 stolen two-wheelers, valued at `13 lakh, were recovered from their possession.

The accused identified Venkatesh and Nandan, both hailing from Andhra Pradesh. The Mahadevapura police too have arrested two men involved in multiple two-wheeler thefts across Bengaluru, recovering 15 stolen vehicles worth `12.8 lakh. The case was taken up when a complaint was filed regarding a two-wheeler theft near Kundalahalli Metro station.

—With inputs from Atiya Firdos

New & improved traffic police website

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have launched a new website [btp.karnataka.gov.in) – aimed at becoming a comprehensive hub for all traffic-related matters. Replacing the old interface, this updated platform offers a modern design and user-friendly features.

Commissioner B Dayananda inaugurated the newly renovated auditorium in traffic training and road safety institute , which has been named "Meese Thimmaiah" in honour of a man who lost his life while saving a child during his duty. Dayananda stated AI technology to support various enforcement and traffic management activities with advanced systems having been identified across different locations. **BMB**

Nettaru murder: Main accused nabbed

The NIA officials have arrested the main accused in the Praveen Nettaru murder case at Indira Gandhi International Airport on Friday. Sources revealed that the accused, Mohammed Shariff, had fled to Bahrain and was apprehended upon his return to India.

Shariff, a state executive committee member of the Popular Front of India (PFI), is accused of passing instructions for targeted killings after discussions within the PFI's state executive committee.

According to NIA investigations, the conspiracy was intended to spread terror and create communal unrest. Praveen Nettaru, a BJP Yuva Morcha member, was murdered on July 26, 2022, in Bellare. **BMB**

ADVERTORIAL

"RESPONSIBLE PROMOTION BEGINS WITH DUE DILIGENCE"

– Tanikella Bharani

In Freedom Sunflower Oil's latest TV commercial, Mr Bharani, who plays a judge, rules that India's No.1* Selling Freedom Sunflower Oil is certainly a winner when it comes to purity and taste. However, as a responsible celebrity, Mr. Bharani decided to go beyond the commercial and carry out the necessary due diligence to ensure the brand lives up to its promises.

*"Gemini Edibles & Fats India Ltd" claim as per NIQ Retail Index data for period MAT Feb'24 for the All India (U+R) market in Sunflower Oil Segment, Refined Oil Consumers Pack (ROCP) Category.

- **Mr. Bharani, what made you want to visit the Freedom Sunflower Oil factory in Kakinada?**

  Mr. Bharani: "I firmly believe that responsible promotion starts with due diligence. That's why I chose to visit the factory in Kakinada. I wanted to see first-hand how the oil is manufactured and ensure that it meets the high standards that Freedom promises."

- **What was your first impression of the factory?**

  Mr. Bharani: "The first thing that struck me was the sheer scale of the operation. The factory was vast, the machinery very sophisticated, and hygiene was top-notch. Freedom's commitment to quality was clear to me from the very start."

- **What did you learn about the manufacturing process?**

  Mr. Bharani: "The entire process is controlled centrally by computers. It's all automated—from filling and capping to labelling and packing, robots and machines handle it all. They also employ cutting-edge Nanotechnology in the refining process to assure consistent and highest quality as per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) norms."

- **How does automation impact the quality of the product?**

  Mr. Bharani: "The hands-free, automated process ensures there's no chance of contamination at any stage. Plus, they have a high-tech quality lab that performs 101 quality checks."

- **What's your final takeaway from your visit?**

  Mr. Bharani: "I'm happy to say that Freedom truly cares about the quality it delivers to its consumers. Their commitment is impressive, which is why they are India's No. 1* selling sunflower oil brand."

Experts urge viable mobility solution, offer suggestions

Panel discusses issues with tunnel road/sky deck projects; says integrated network combining Metro, suburban rail is best way forward

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Activists and urban mobility experts criticised the government's approval of the Rs.16,500-crore tunnel road and Rs.500-crore sky deck projects during a discussion held at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday. Panellists at the event organised by CIVIC, a public charitable trust, argued that these projects offer limited long-term benefits, encourage private vehicle use, and divert funds from critical sectors such as public transport and education. A petition against the tunnel project has already been filed by activists, highlighting its lack of viability and potential harm to sustainable urban growth. The event, which featured Ashish Verma's research report, emphasised the importance of an integrated Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS). Verma, a Professor of Transportation Systems Engineering and Convenor of the IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab (IST Lab) stated how a well-coordinated network combining Metro and Suburban Rail systems could achieve an 80% sustainable modal share by 2041, significantly easing congestion and improving urban mobility.

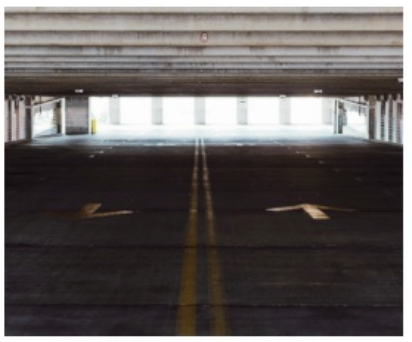
"Our research shows that seamless integration of Metro and Suburban Rail networks, supported by efficient interchanges, is crucial for Bengaluru's sustainability," Verma explained. The study projected daily MRTS ridership to reach 86.41 lakh by 2041, with the introduction of new metro corridors redistributing passenger flows and optimizing network efficiency.

The study also assessed the impact of proposed double-decker roads and tunnel corridors on public transit systems. While these projects provide localised travel time reductions, Verma cautioned against them. "Such infrastructure promotes private vehicle dependency, reduces public transit ridership, and worsens environmental and social inequalities," he said.

Absent MPS

The discussion, presided over by A Ravindra, retired IAS officer and former Chief Secretary of the Government of Karnataka, emphasised the critical issues and gaps in the BBMP's approach to planning and executing these large-scale projects.

Panellists, including DT Devare, Trustee of the Bangalore Environment



Trust, highlighted the lack of a functioning Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC) in the BBMP, a crucial body mandated under the Nagarpalika Act to oversee urban planning. "The BBMP elections haven't been conducted in four years, and even when the MPC existed, it was kept dysfunctional," Devare remarked.

Rajakumar Dugar, founder of C4C and another panellist, criticised the tunnel project, stating that it would benefit only 2.8% of the population. "Spending Rs.16,500 crore on this project is highly questionable, especially when Metro and Suburban Rail projects already cover nearly the same routes," he said.

Connectivity required

Panelists emphasised the importance of enhancing connectivity to all parts of Bengaluru, including its rural areas, to ensure sustainable growth and prevent future traffic congestion.

Several panellists argued that the Rs.16,500 crore allocated for the tunnel project and the Rs.500 crore for the sky-deck highway could be better used to improve public transportation infrastructure, such as expanding metro and suburban rail networks.

The report has already been formally submitted to the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and K-RIDE on December 16.

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Hazard fixed

Nandini Layout

Following the column report about the dangerously open control kiosk door at BHEL Park, 25th Main Road, Nandini Layout, BESCOM resolved the issue.

Vehicle blocked

HSR Layout

A vehicle has been parked outside Creative Srinilaya Apartments on 24th Main, HSR Layout, for two months. Authorities are urged to take action to address the issue.

Pourakarmikas, residents beautify Kogilu Main Road

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The residents of Kogilu are delighted with the beautification of black spots on the Main Road by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) pourakarmikas. Around 20 pourakarmikas and a few residents have removed garbage on Kogilu Main Road which was an eyesore and health hazard for the residents. Bangalore Mirror published a story titled, "Kogilu Road continues to be littered with black spots" on December 13 narrating how black spots have become a health hazard for residents and how lack of coordination between residents and BBMP conservancy workers assigned to collect garbage from door to door has contributed creation of black spots on Kogilu Main Road and other areas.

"We engaged around 20 pourakarmikas to clear the garbage and beautify a big black spot spreading 200 metres on Kogilu Main Road. A few residents have joined hands with the pourakarmikas. We are contemplating deputing BBMP Marshals at night to keep a vigil on those dumping garbage on the road," said BBMP Health Inspector Ashwath.

Appreciating the BBMP authorities for clearing garbage on Kogilu Main Road, Poojappa, a resident, said that he wanted to thank and appreciate the BBMP authorities for beautifying the black spots. "I appeal to the BBMP authorities to keep a vigil on those lazy residents who dump garbage on the road. Now, the road looks clean and neat," he said. Expressing a similar opinion, Mahesh T, a resident, said he wanted the BBMP authorities to ensure cleanliness on Kogilu Main Road and other roads. "I am very happy to see Kogilu Main Road clean and neat. I appeal to the residents and the BBMP authorities to ensure Kogilu Main Road is free from black spots," said Mahesh.

Bangalore Mirror
Kogilu Road continues to be littered with black spots
Irresponsible trashing by citizens and civic agency's lack of accountability increases risk to animals, pedestrians

BM's December 13 report highlights black spots' health hazards

Pourakarmikas beautifying blackspot on Kogilu Main Road

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Yelahanka Zone Marshal Supervisor Raje Gowda said a black spot at Agrahara was beautified on Thursday. "We have beautified the black spot on Kogilu Main Road on Friday. We have collected around Rs 2,600 penalty from residents who dumped garbage on the road on Thursday. We are intensifying night patrol to keep a vigil on those dumping garbage on the road," said Raje Gowda.

Minor girl forced to pose for photo, family seeks action

Police constable and home guard allegedly forced young girl to pose for a picture in absence of her family while affixing notice at her home

CCTV footage showing a police constable and a homeguard taking picture

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

An incident involving a minor girl at Vidyaranyapura Police Station raised concerns about the conduct of some policemen and home guards. The girl, who was alone at home, was reportedly asked to come down from the first floor and pose for a photograph. Following the incident, she experienced distress and developed a high fever.

A police constable and a home guard from Vidyaranyapura Police Station visited the residence of Shashank SK on November 5 to affix a notice on the gate, notifying him to appear for an inquiry regarding a first information report (FIR) filed on October 24. Shashank had previously lodged a complaint against Sekhar and others for trespassing, using offensive language, and making threats.

Vidyaranyapura Police registered the FIR against Sekhar and others under Sections 3(5), 351(2), 352 and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.

"Instead of summoning or arresting the accused, the police came to my house and frightened my daughter who was alone. My family members were attending the funeral of one of our relatives. My daughter was alone at home. The police pasted the notice on the gate and called my daughter who was on the first floor. Despite my daughter telling the police constable and the home guard, they insisted my daughter come down and pose for a photograph. We returned home late and found her shivering. When asked, she narrated the whole story," said Shashank.

Shashank said that he visited Vidyaranyapura Police Station the next day and informed the police inspector but no action was taken against the police constable and the home guard. "They told me that taking photographs is a routine," Shashank said.

He said that the police had his mobile phone number and they could have contacted him over the phone before coming to his house to affix the notice at the gate. "While lodging a complaint, I gave all the details including my mobile phone number," he said.

With the Vidyaranyapura Police Inspector failing to take action against the police constable and the home guard, he lodged a complaint with the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) seeking justice. The KSCPCR issued two notices on December 4 and 12 to the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Yelahanka Sub Division, Police Inspector of Vidyaranyapura Police Station, police constable Rafiq and home guard Sundara Shinde to attend the inquiry. The first inquiry was scheduled on December 11 and the second inquiry on December 31, 2024.

Shashank has also lodged a complaint with the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC) on December 4. The KSHRC issued a notice to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (North East) to conduct an inquiry and submit a report within four weeks.

"I want justice. I want the police authorities to take suitable action against the police constable and the home guard for compelling my daughter to pose for a photograph. My objective is that no minor girl should undergo the trauma my daughter underwent," he said.

Father approaches child rights body after police fail to take action after complaint

3 arrested for forging documents

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has apprehended three individuals involved in the fraudulent sale of properties using forged documents. The case came to light after complainants from Cox Town alleged that the accused forged a General Power of Attorney (GPA) for a property in Kothanur village, originally owned by their deceased maternal uncle.

The accused reportedly created a fake GPA and executed a fraudulent sale deed, transferring the property to a third party without the rightful heirs' knowledge. Following the complaint, a case was registered at the CCB Police Station on November 19.

During investigations, the police arrested two suspects from Thanisandra and Lingarajapura on November 30. The accused were presented before the court and released on bail.

The third suspect, who had secured anticipatory bail on December 13, appeared for interrogation at the police station and was released as per court orders. —BMB

Trio held for fake railway jobs scam

Three individuals were arrested by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) for defrauding candidates by promising employment as Ticket Collectors in the Indian Railways. The accused collected ₹80 lakh from four aspirants, issuing fake appointment letters without securing any jobs.

The case came to light on December 9 when a complaint was filed with CCB (OC West), alleging the trio's fraudulent activities. The accused had gained the trust of the victims and gradually extracted the money through cash and bank transfers. The candidates were deceived with counterfeit appointment orders sent via email and post.

Acting on the complaint, CCB officers apprehended two of the accused. Investigations revealed five accomplices. With interrogation leading to four suspects. —BMB

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

BRIEF HALT

This mynah was sitting on an empty vessel in the backyard of our house and after a fleeting quizzical look, it flew away

The picture was clicked by reader **P Smitha**

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After public grievance meeting, BBMP draws up plans for Mahadevapura

200 new public toilets to be built; officials asked to identify suitable locations for construction

In a development for the Mahadevapura zone, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has instructed officials to identify suitable locations for the construction of public toilets. This decision follows a request for the establishment of toilets in the area during a recent public hearing. Responding to the appeal, the Chief Commissioner announced plans to construct 200 new high-tech toilets within the municipal limits. He directed officials to identify vacant plots or public spaces in the Mahadevapura zone, after which tenders will be called for the construction of these facilities within a set deadline.

Mosquito control

In response to public concerns about the rising mosquito menace due to stagnant water from drains in areas like RNS Colony, Jaibhuwaneshwari Layout, and Banashankari Layout in the KR Puram area, the zone commissioner and joint commissioner conducted an inspection.

They identified breeding grounds for mosquitoes and instructed health authorities to carry out spraying and fogging to control the mosquito population.

Other grievances

Key public grievances received during the event include several issues raised by citizens in the Mahadevapura zone. Firstly, the skywalk near Baiyappanahalli is currently not in use, and citizens have requested its relocation to a more functional location. In BEML Layout, unauthorised construction activities have been on the rise, prompting citizens to seek immediate intervention. Complaints regarding clogged drains in A Narayanapura have also been raised, with a request for immediate cleaning.

Additionally, there have been issues with obtaining e-akhata services, with citizens urging for a quick resolution to facilitate easier access. The road in Balagere is severely damaged, leading to calls for urgent repairs to restore it.

There is also a request to construct an electric crematorium in the KR Puram area, as well as concerns regarding water supply in A and B Narayanapura, which need to be addressed.

Local residents have raised issues regarding the feeding of stray dogs, requesting that regulations be put in place to manage the practice. Encroachments at the bus stand in Sante Maidan and at parks near RHB Colony have also been highlighted, with citizens requesting these areas to be cleared.

> **“ After locations are identified, tenders will be called for construction**
> – Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP

— BMB

File photo of a protest held by Mahadevapura residents

DID YOU KNOW?

Santa Claus is based on the real historical figure of St Nicholas, a Byzantine bishop born in present-day Turkey. Because of the extraordinary legends and miracles attributed to him he became one of the most popular saints in Europe. Dutch migrants probably spread his fame to the US and there the patron saint of children was transformed through books, magazines and films into the familiar Santa Claus, or Father Christmas, figure we know today. There is the story about St Nicholas that everyone knows – the one about him giving gifts to the poor in the dead of night – the Santa Claus origin story. But there's another story that is probably less familiar to most of us. It's a story about how Nicholas fought against a miscarriage of justice. The earliest writing on the life of Nicholas is to be found in the Bibliotheca Hagiographica Graeca, and believed to be written in early 9th century by Michael the Archimandrite.

— The Conversation

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No, Rahul Gandhi did not admit to assaulting BJP MP outside Parliament

The Verdict: Misleading | Logicallyfacts.com

A video of Gandhi responding to a question about Mallikarjun Kharge being pushed during a scuffle has been wrongly shown as his admission of assault.

What is the claim?

Social media users are sharing a video of Congress Member of Parliament (MP) Rahul Gandhi, alleging that it shows him admitting to physically pushing a fellow MP from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In the video, multiple reporters can be heard questioning Gandhi. He responds, "No, no, I don't know if it was captured on your camera, this is the Parliament entrance. I was trying to enter it when BJP MPs were blocking, pushing me, and threatening me." As the reporters continue questioning, Gandhi says, "Yes, kiya hai, kiya hai (it was done, it was done), but it is okay. Nothing happens to us during dhakka-mukki (scuffles). But this is the entrance of the Parliament House, and we have a right to enter it. The BJP MPs were stopping us from going inside..."

The video was shared by Amit Malviya, head of the BJP IT department, with the caption: "Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi admits on camera to having assaulted BJP MP Pratap Sarangi, leaving him grievously injured. This calls for criminal charges against him. There is overwhelming evidence, video footage, and his own admission to convict Rahul Gandhi. The law must take its course." Malviya's post had 35,000 views and 1,500 reposts at the time of this fact-check. Several BJP MPs also circulated the video, alleging that Gandhi admitted to pushing BJP MPs.

The video surfaced amid reports of a scuffle outside Parliament on December 19, 2024. BJP MPs accused Gandhi of pushing leaders Pratap Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput, allegedly causing injuries. Visuals showed Sarangi surrounded by MPs, clutching his head, and later claiming he was pushed. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also alleged he sustained a knee injury during the incident.

The altercation reportedly happened during protests and counter-protests between the BJP and Congress, sparked by a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah. Shah remarked that invoking Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had become a "fashion," a comment the Congress condemned as insulting. However, contrary to claims by BJP leaders, the video does not show Gandhi admitting to pushing a BJP MP. Instead, he was responding to a reporter's question about whether Kharge was also pushed during the scuffle.

What we found

Logically Facts reviewed a clearer version of the video, shared by the Press Trust of India (PTI) on its official X account (archived here). In this version, the reporters' questions are more discernible. At the 0:18 mark, reporters are heard asking, "What happened to you? What happened with Priyankaji?" One reporter specifically asks, "Khargeji, Khargeji ke saath dhakka-mukki (scuffle with Kharge)?" Gandhi's response at 0:22 is: "See, see, yes, kiya hai, kiya hai (it was done, it was done)... but the pushing doesn't affect us. This is the entrance of Parliament House, and it is our right to go inside. The BJP members are stopping us from entering." The same conversation is audible in videos uploaded by ANI News (archived here) and NDTV (archived here). These videos confirm that Gandhi was addressing questions about Kharge being pushed, not admitting to assaulting BJP MPs.

The verdict

The video of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi responding to reporters about party members Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi being pushed has been misrepresented. The claim that Gandhi admitted to assaulting BJP MPs is false.

The story was originally published by LF (Logically Facts) (https://www.logicallyfacts.com/en/fact-check/no-rahul-gandhi-did-not-admit-he-assaulted-bjp-mp-outside-parliament) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective)

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GET WITH IT, FOLKS

Some reasons why investing in smart appliances can be a good idea

Hackers can easily access the defaults on devices and gain access to data, Morgenstern says. They use search engines, such as Shodan, to gain access to that information.

Smart appliances are changing the face of technology. As long as one can remember, a classic refrigerator's primary function was to ensure that the things are fresh. With the current times and new technological advancements, even the basic fridge has been updated to a device that is extremely interesting. Fascinating and intriguing, these smart kitchen appliances add a modern aspect to your home.

Smart refrigerators with their distinct inbuilt functionals are a classic essential for your kitchen. Wi-Fi connections, controlled cooling as well as connecting your phone to the screen can help a lot in completing basic everyday activities easily.

Read on to take a look at some distinct functions of a smart refrigerator.

Front Panel Screen

A screen on a refrigerator seems like a smart classic update. It can help perform various household activities. From keeping track of the shopping list to Wi-Fi connections and audio, this panel ensures proper reminders. The screen can be connected to your smartphone too.

Door Opening Technology

An update that swayed everyone is door opening technology. Without even physically touching it, the door can open on its own, which is a fun as well a characteristic property maximising focus on comfort and ease.

Adjusting Temperatures

There are various different compartments in the fridge. From the vegetable section to the freezer, everything needs to have a perfect temperature so as to ensure longevity. With smart fridges, one can easily change the temperature of different compartments according to the food stored in them. The fridge and the freezer qualities can be interchanged without any hassle. The screen or even your smartphone can do the same without physically changing it from inside the fridge.

Built-In Cameras

The smart refrigerators have a unique yet required quality, that is the built-in cameras. Consider going out grocery shopping and forgetting your list. The built-in camera which can be connected to your phone helps you to have a quick overlook of the items that are present in the fridge thus making it extremely easy to know what is needed and what is not.

Below are some advantages of having a smart fridge:

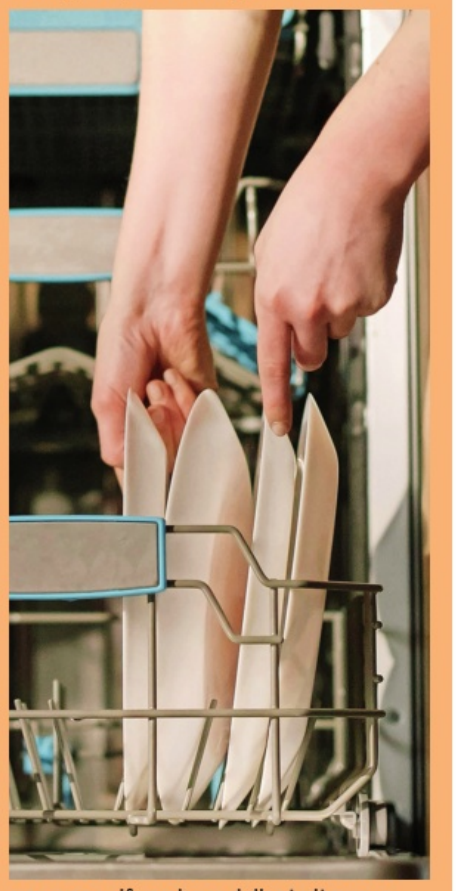
The built-in qualities of a smart refrigerator are extraordinary as compared to any regular fridge.

- It enables ease of use as well as extreme comfortability to perform all the functionals effortlessly.
- Connectivity with the screen as well as smartphones is an added plus of a smart refrigerator which is great when you are on the go and not at home.

DISH WASH TIME

If you're going to do something, then do it right. It's time that you don't just wash dishes instead you dish-wash them! To be honest the usage of dishwashers in Indian households is negligible, after all we avoid anything and everything which involves complicated components. One thing that you aren't aware of is that dishwashers are actually extremely simple to operate. Trust us, once we introduce you to the salient features of a dishwasher, you are going to find traditional washing as completely monotonous.

Wait a minute, you do know what a dishwasher is, don't you?
A dishwasher is a machine that cleans any dishware or cutlery you require. What's great about a dishwasher is that it requires minimum physical activity as opposed to scrubbing.
Now let's have a look at the salient features of a dishwasher:
A dishwasher sprays hot water which can range from anything between 45 to 75 degree C, whatever you desire. Don't



you worry if you have delicate items, a dishwasher takes care of that as well by operating at lower temperatures.
A dishwasher is more capable of handling your stemware to secure your glass than a human being can handle.
Ultra quiet feature: Imagine not hearing that loud dish sound, yes! You can even buy a dishwasher that does its magic quietly.
The automated door feature helps save energy and time by letting fresh air ramp up the drying.
Your dishwasher can prove to be your best friend during this pandemic era, with its sanitisation feature it makes sure your dishware is not a victim of germs.
The InfoLight facility in quiet dishwashers help you know when a wash cycle is running, the convenience lies in the easily noticeable light shining on the ground.

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Proposal for metro extension to Kumbalgod–Bidadi

In response to the increasing traffic congestion in travel and real estate development, Dy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar recently announced that the government is considering extending the metro network to Hosakote, Nelamangala, and Bidadi. While addressing a question raised by Congress MLA Sharath Bachegowda in the Legislative Assembly regarding the metro extension to Hosakote. "Sharath has been advocating strongly for this cause. Bengaluru is growing rapidly, and over 10,000 people commute daily from Kolar on regular trains. The IT Corridor is nearly reaching Hosakote, making the metro an essential need. I have already included this extension in the plans and a detailed survey is being conducted. Our government, along with the metro authorities, is considering this proposal with compassion. A report is being prepared for the extension plan that will cover Hosakote, Bidadi, and Nelamangala. We have taken your request into account."

Real estate developers said that the proposed extension of the Bengaluru Metro to areas like Nelamangala, Bidadi, and Hosakote is poised to bring transformative changes to the city's real estate development and transportation landscape. Currently, the metro network covers Madhavara, Whitefield, and Challaghatta on Mysuru Road, but the planned extensions will connect these key locations to the city's core, promoting a ripple effect of growth across the region.

BMRCL workers seen testing the soil near Kanteerava studio ring road for the 3rd Phase of Metro rail

"With the metro extension, this will not only reduce pressure on the roads but also provide an efficient and sustainable transportation alternative. The metro's ability to reduce road traffic will lead to shorter travel times, less pollution, and greater overall efficiency in the movement of goods and people. The extension will also help facilitate real estate development in these areas. Developers are always looking for locations with good transport infrastructure, and the proposed extensions are expected to boost demand for real estate in Hosakote, Bidadi, and Nelamangala. These areas, which were previously considered distant suburbs, are likely to see a surge in both residential and commercial projects, making them attractive investment hubs," said Nitin Gowda, a real estate agent.

For residential projects, proximity to a metro station has historically increased property values and attracted more buyers. The extension will make suburban areas like Nelamangala, Bidadi, and Hosakote more accessible to professionals working in the city center, offering an attractive alternative to the high costs of living in central Bengaluru. "With the metro, we are enabling affordable housing projects that are connected directly to the city without compromising on convenience," said a city planner involved in the project. As more offices and industrial hubs are expected to emerge in these newly connected regions, the real estate market will flourish. "The proposed metro extensions will improve both transportation and real estate dynamics, benefiting developers, residents, and businesses alike. This expansion promises to create a more interconnected Bengaluru," added Nitya Reddy, a real estate agent.

–Prakash VL

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Bengaluru residential sector sees remarkable growth in 2024

The residential real estate sector in Bengaluru witnessed significant growth in 2024, driven by domestic private equity (PE) investments. With increasing urbanisation and growing housing demand, Bengaluru has become a key destination for investors looking to capitalise on quality housing opportunities. According to Investments in Real Estate, trends in private equity investments in 2024 by Knight Frank, PE investments in the sector surged to USD 1.2 billion nationwide in 2024, surpassing the combined total of 2022 and 2023. Domestic capital played a pivotal role, contributing 70% of the total investments, while foreign investments accounted for the remaining 30%. This shift underscores growing confidence in India's local real estate market and the strategic focus on domestic opportunities.

Bengaluru among top cities for residential investments

"Bengaluru emerged as one of the leading cities for residential PE investments, attracting USD 403 million in 2024. The city ranked second after Mumbai (USD 406 million), followed by Delhi-NCR (USD 202 million). Bengaluru's strong market fundamentals and sustained housing demand make it a hotspot for investors seeking long-term returns. Equity funding accounted for 75% of the total PE investments in 2024, reflecting a growing preference for equity over debt. This trend signals robust investor confidence in the residential sector's growth potential and demonstrates a willingness to take higher stakes in development projects," the report said.

The report said that a significant portion of investments was directed toward early-stage residential projects, highlighting optimism about the future of Bengaluru's real estate market. The city's reputation as a tech hub and its burgeoning population have fueled demand for quality housing, further cementing its position as an attractive investment destination.

Pan-India appeal of residential market

While Bengaluru led the charge, the broader appeal of India's residential real estate market was evident in the distribution of investments across various cities. The sector's growth is no longer confined to metros but extends to emerging markets, reflecting a pan-India phenomenon fueled by increasing housing needs. Favourable government policies and the inherent growth potential of the residential sector have created a conducive environment for sustained investment. Bengaluru, in particular, has benefited from infrastructure developments, improved connectivity, and progressive urban planning initiatives, further boosting investor sentiment. The involvement of both domestic and international investors marks a transformative phase for the sector. With equity-based investments on the rise and growing confidence in early-stage developments, Bengaluru's residential real estate market is well-positioned for long-term growth and remains a key player in India's booming real estate landscape.

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Who let the timber mafia out?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

permission letter given by the BBMP Forest Department to cut the tree. They did not produce any documents. They invoked the local elected representative's name," he said.

Another resident on the condition of anonymity told BM that the timber mafia is very dangerous. "It seems the timber mafia is inspired by the movie Pushpa.

The way they are cutting trees in this area with impunity, it looks like the timber mafia is influential and is hand in glove with the corrupt BBMP Forest Department and local police," the resident said.

He confirmed that the tree was in good condition. "It is just a few metres away from my residence. No one had any problem with that tree and no resident had complained to the BBMP Forest Department about it. I wanted to complain to the local police but could not do so," the resident said.

Expressing a similar opinion, Vikram Mailar Vijay, another resident of the area, said the residents are worried about the cutting of well-grown trees in the locality. "Generally, the BBMP Forest Department gives permission to cut trees based on the application submitted by the property owner or residents. The people who cut this tree are not engaged by the BBMP Forest Department. The BBMP must take measures to prevent the timber mafia from cutting trees," he said.

Srinivas, the tree cutting contractor engaged by the BBMP Forest Department for Sarvagnanagar, confirmed to BM that he was not assigned to cut any tree in and around HBR Layout during the last 10 days.

Deputy Range Forest Officer Thimmappa too informed us that he had not given permission to cut trees at HBR Layout. "I will instruct my subordinates to visit the spot. I will take suitable action after receiving the report from my subordinates," the Deputy Range Officer said.

The BBMP Forest Department and environmentalists have been spending considerable amount and time to plant saplings to ensure greenery in the city. But if the timber mafia is allowed to rule the roost, all that effort goes to waste.

Sending voice sample to pvt lab affects rights of accused: HC

The Karnataka High Court affirmed a trial court's decision to discharge a public servant from corruption charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The ruling was based on the Lokayukta police's decision to send voice sample evidence to a private agency rather than the government's Forensic Science Laboratory.

The court determined that submitting the sample to a private agency and treating its report as conclusive evidence in the chargesheet compromised the public servant's rights. Justice V Srishananda rejected the State's challenge to the trial court's order of December 16, 2016, which had discharged G Ramachari from offences under Section 7 and 13 (2) of the PC Act. The bench stated, "It is pertinent to note that without exhausting the remedy before the Forensic Laboratory of Karnataka, sending the voice sample to the Truth Labs, which is a private agency and collecting the report which is been placed as a gospel truth in filing the charge sheet has also resulted in affecting the rights of the accused. Therefore, the very cognizance itself should not have been taken by the learned Special Judge and the charge sheet should have been returned." **BMB**

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I Tanu Gupta W/O, Dushyant Kumar Gupta R/o Villa 26, Mims Northdale, Blossoms Rd, Visthar Kothanur, Bangalore 560077 have changed my name from Tanu Gupta to Tanu Jaiswal vide Affidavit Number IN-UP10835078207547W dated 19/12/2024 before Notary by 20/12/2024

I, NAGAVALLI HUSSAIN AMJAD ALI KHAN S/o Hussain Ali Khan R/at Hebbur Hobli, Nagavalli at Post, Tumkur- 572120 have changed my name to AMJAD ALI KHAN vide affidavit dated: 20/12/2024 Before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

I, NAZIYA FIRDOUSE W/o Amjad Ali Khan R/at Hebbur Hobli, Nagavalli at Post, Tumkur- 572120 have changed my name to NAZIYA KHANUM vide affidavit dated: 20/12/2024 Before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

I, Satheesh Palagadu R/o Flat.A-304, Prathika Gokulendhra Alfa Garden, 5th cross, Kodigehalli main road, Bengaluru 560036 have changed my name to PALADUGU SATHEESH affidavit Dt.20/12/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

WE, Murugesan Pitchandi & Ramalaxmi Murugesan, R/o C-401, Tower C, 4th Floor, Bhuvi by Amsha, Kaverappa Layout, Kadubeesanahalli, Bengaluru – 560103, have changed our son's name from VISHAK MURUGESAN PITCHANDI to VISHAK MURUGESAN, vide affidavit dated 19.12.2024, sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru

I, Pranav s/o Anil Kumar R/o 205 Shri Vishnu Comforts 11th Main 1st Cross Hongasandra B'luru-560068 have changed my name to Pranav Pandey for all Purposes.

I Satharasi Sreedevi W/O, Murali Naidu Kuppuri R/o No 54 3rd Main 4th Cross Church Road J P Nagar 8th Phase City Bengaluru - 560078 have changed my name to Sridevi Kuppuri.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dodda Krishna Kumari, R/at No. 27/1, 2nd Cross, R R Layout, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore 560090 have changed my name to **BHAVANAM KRISHNAKUMARI** for all future purposes vide affidavit dt. 13.12.2024 sworn before Notary N Mahesha, Bangalore.

LOST & FOUND

I Amarnath S., have lost my M.Tech Grade sheets of 3rd and 4th Sem. issued by NITW in Nagavara, Bengaluru on 19th Dec, 2024

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GALLERIA

City bikers gear up for year-end rides

From solo rides to group bondings; from nearby short rides to exploring depths of farther places, bikers are prepping for adventures of their lifetimes

Bengalureans have always had a special relationship with bikes, fueled by the city's vibrant culture and proximity to stunning landscapes. The love for bikes in Bengaluru transcends mere convenience; it's about freedom, adventure, and the joy of discovering the world on two wheels. As the year draws to a close, this passion is translating into meticulously planned bike trips, offering residents a perfect opportunity to unwind and explore the beauty surrounding their bustling city.

Love affair with bikes

Santosh Kumar, a biker, said, "Bengaluru's love for bikes is deeply ingrained in its urban fabric. For many, bikes symbolise an escape from the city's infamous traffic jams, offering a quicker and more enjoyable way to navigate the streets. Beyond practicality, biking represents a lifestyle choice, embodying adventure and camaraderie. The thrill of cruising down open roads, the connection with nature, and the sense of community among fellow bikers make biking an unmatched experience. The city's burgeoning biking culture is evident in the numerous bike clubs and communities that have sprung up over the years." Many bike groups regularly organise rides and events, fostering a sense of belonging among enthusiasts.

Popular destinations

"For short getaways, places like Nandi Hills and Skandagiri are perennial favourites. These destinations offer breathtaking sunrises and winding roads that are a joy to navigate. Slightly farther afield, Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu attract bikers with their misty coffee plantations and tranquil settings. These hill stations are perfect for riders looking to escape the urban grind and immerse themselves in nature. For those seeking a mix of adventure and history, Hampi's ancient ruins and the rugged terrains of the Western Ghats are ideal. Coastal enthusiasts are planning trips to Gokarna and Karwar, where the combination of scenic coastal routes and serene beaches provides a refreshing experience. Meanwhile, thrill-seekers are eyeing the challenging trails of Wayanad and Bandipur, which promise both adrenaline and awe-inspiring views," Manjunath Krish, another biker, said.

Group rides and solo journeys

Kavya Kumar, a biker, said, "Group rides are a hallmark of Bengaluru's biking culture. These expeditions, often organised by clubs, ensure safety, structured itineraries, and a shared sense of adventure. Riders bond over campfires, shared meals, and the sheer joy of the open road. Experienced bikers often mentor newbies, fostering a spirit of inclusivity and learning." She adds that solo journeys are equally popular among Bengalureans. Many riders cherish the solitude and introspection that come with solo travel. Whether it's the winding roads of Chikkamagalur or the serene backwaters of Kabini, solo riders find these journeys deeply fulfilling. For them, biking is not just about reaching a destination; it's about the personal journey and the freedom to chart their own path.

Preparations for ride

Bikers said that preparation is an essential part of any bike trip, and Bengalureans are meticulous planners. Ensuring the bike is in top condition is a priority, leading to a spike in visits to servicing centres. Riders are investing in quality gear, including helmets, jackets, gloves, and riding boots, prioritising safety and comfort. Packing is another crucial aspect. Essentials like first-aid kits, portable chargers, and weather-appropriate clothing are at the top of every biker's checklist. Many riders are equipping themselves with action cameras to capture their journeys and share their experiences with the broader biking community.

Spirit of exploration

"Biking trips are more than just a hobby for Bengalureans; they are a way of life. These journeys allow riders to connect with nature, explore new cultures, and build lasting memories. The sense of accomplishment of conquering challenging terrains or discovering hidden gems is unparalleled. As 2024 comes to a close, Bengalureans are embracing the spirit of exploration with open arms. Whether it's a weekend ride to a nearby hill or an extended trip across state borders, these bike trips encapsulate the essence of adventure and the joy of the journey. For the city's biking enthusiasts, the end of the year is not just a time for reflection but a chance to create new stories on the road, making every mile a memorable chapter in their journey," Nandini Hari, a biker, added.

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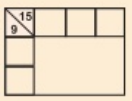
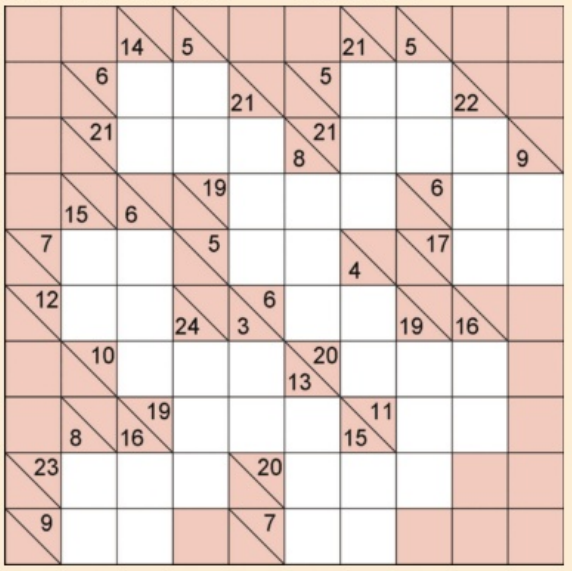
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

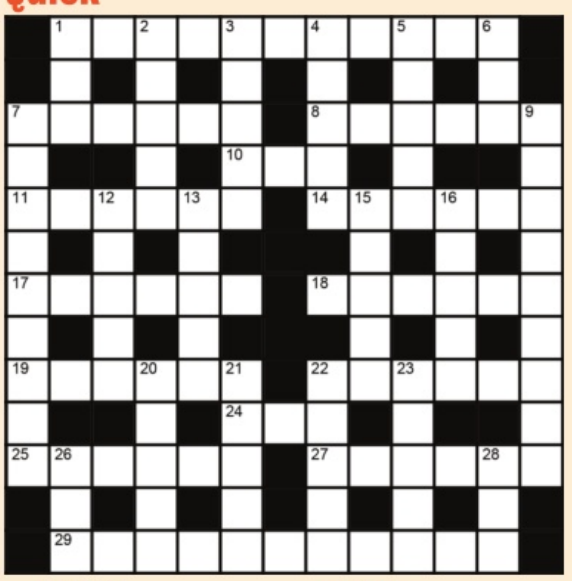


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Brazenly (11)
7 Collection of odds and ends? (3-3)
8 Starting suddenly, as from fight (6)
10 Ram's mate (3)
11 Over there (6)
14 Clear the river bed with a scooping device (6)
17 Beginner (6)
18 Young swan (6)
19 Type of medieval ship (6)
22 Beguile or ensnare (6)
24 A mythical monster, as an ogre (3)
25 Say, observe or comment (6)
27 Decide to leave or withdraw? (3,3)
29 Being the last but one (11)

DOWN

1 S. American city __ Paolo (3)
2 Was unwell or was sick (5)
3 Go in (5)
4 Relaxed (5)
5 Fashion in dress? (5)
6 Japanese bucks (3)
7 Area home to the City Central Library (9)
9 Becomes ruined or deteriorates (4,2,3)
12 Original-not old (5)
13 A master of ceremonies (5)
15 Synthetic fibre also used in manufacturing tyres (5)
16 Contributor (5)
20 Gain knowledge by study (5)
21 Country bumpkin (5)
22 Intestinal bacteria (1,4)
23 Four as a prefix (5)
26 Psychic power (3)
28 Employ or avail of (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS C

KFTOI JTD J QDJCP VQGME... VQDP KDGEQ PFZ OFKM. GA NGTOI VJYBDO, VQDP UFZYOM'V AYP.

Linemaro

Seeing you everyday keeps the doctor away

Mindchow

Sometimes the smallest act of love can take up the biggest space in someone's heart.

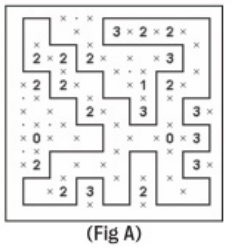
Joke of the day

Seeing a spider isn't a problem. It becomes a problem when it disappears!

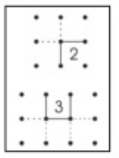
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



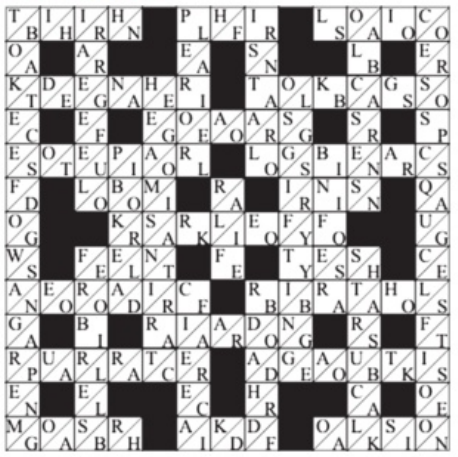
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

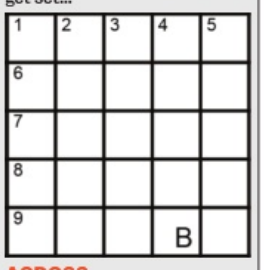
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

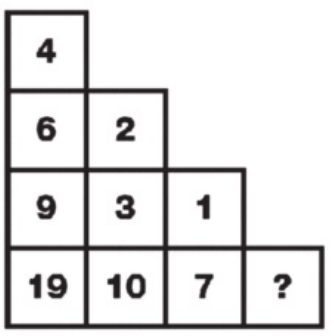
1 Tarts; 6 Riced;
7 Al bed; 8 Ileus;
9 Bauds

DOWN

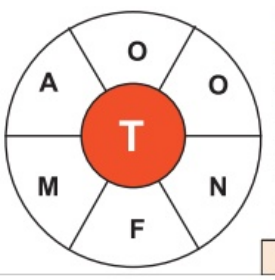
1 Clads; 2 Bait I;
3 A due I; 4 Bud re;
5 Rests

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; 06 Good; 08 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		8	3		7	1		
4			5		1			6
	1	2		9		3	8	
1								2
	7						6	
3								8
	3	7		6		8	9	
5			2		8			1
		1	9		4	5		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

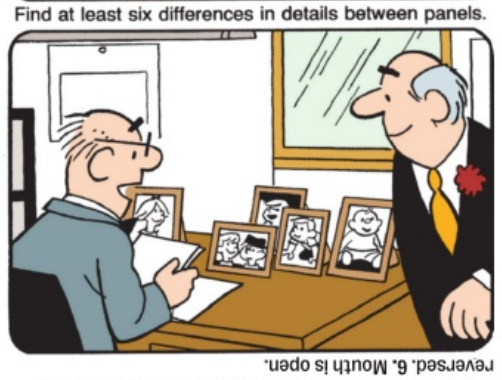
Easy = 28
5 7 8 8

Medium = 15
5 6 8 8

Hard = 27
4 7 8 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



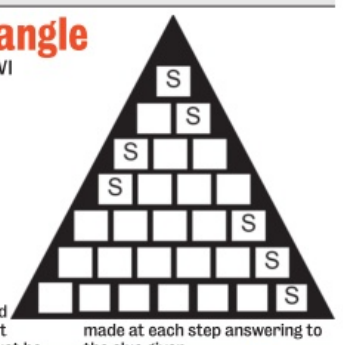
Differences: 1. Finger is moved. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Glasses are different. 4. Frame is moved. 5. Photo is reversed. 6. Mouth is open.

Riddler

How can October 31 and December 25 be the same?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number XVI
2 Good _ it gets
3 Unhappy
4 Spoken
5 Incursions
6 Saps
7 Encroachments

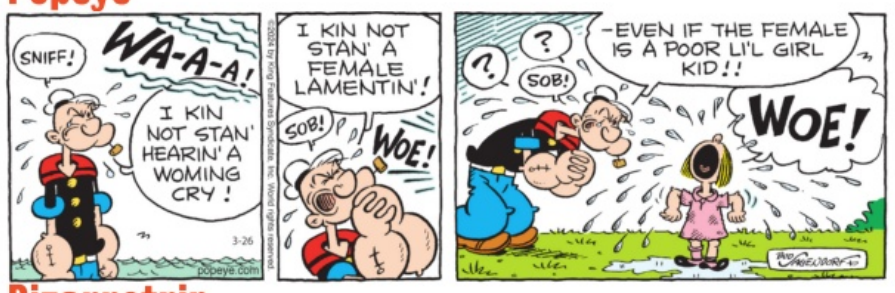


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

BE KIND Always
DID YOU HEAR CAT'S GETTING EYE SURGERY TOMORROW?
WHOA, CAN YOU GO BLIND FROM THAT?
BE KIND Always
PROBABLY.
KAT'S GETTING SURGERY?

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may easily complete challenging tasks, boosting your confidence. Past investments might yield good returns. However, you are advised to avoid arguments over trivial matters, as they could waste your valuable time.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today may not be favourable. You might feel unhappy or dissatisfied with your current situation. Patience is crucial, and you should refrain from making hasty decisions. Take special care of your parents' well-being.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may make swift decisions that benefit your daily life. With the support of your colleagues, you can resolve complex issues and achieve success. Property-related disputes among siblings might be resolved, and short trips could be on the horizon.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are advised to control your bluntness, as impulsive words might upset those around you. Avoid spending your hard-earned money on unnecessary items. While your mind may work quickly, it's essential to approach important decisions with patience.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, blessings from the moon may transform recent disappointments into happiness. You might enjoy a balance between your professional and personal life. Your network could help you complete pending projects, and you might embark on a new venture with support from your siblings and connections.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be engrossed in work, and your commitment to your goals could be tested repeatedly. Patience and dedication will help you achieve success and earn rewards for your hard work. You might also consider investing in fixed assets.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, your destiny may favour you, allowing for effortless success. A visit to a religious place could bring peace of mind. You might spend time acquiring intellectual or spiritual knowledge. Students are likely to perform well, singles may meet a suitable match, and lovebirds could make important decisions about marriage.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy at work, implementing plans effectively with the support of your strong network. Your wisdom could bring gains from past investments. Romantic moments with your spouse may strengthen your domestic harmony, and lovebirds might enjoy happy times together.

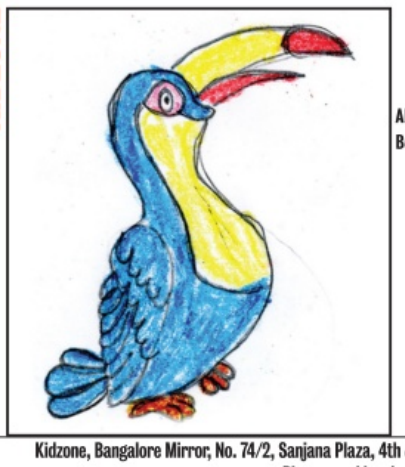
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, blessings from the moon may bring happiness. Challenges from last week might now ease, and your hard work could be rewarded. With the help of subordinates, you might restart postponed tasks. Business gains could improve your financial standing.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you might feel low and experience health concerns. Postpone business investments and avoid starting new ventures, as losses are likely. Your gains might turn into losses if caution is not exercised.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel happy and peaceful. Your focus on your goals could be strong, and romantic moments with your spouse might strengthen your bond. You could also spend time addressing other domestic matters.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your enthusiasm may shine, and your work performance might impress your seniors. New responsibilities, possibly linked to a promotion, could come your way. Legal matters may bring good news, and opponents or hidden adversaries could be subdued.

KIDZONE



Akhilesh
Bengaluru

Daniyal,
Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M 400+81-480 = 481-480 = 1

QUOTE UNCODE Words are a heavy thing...they weigh you down. If birds talked, they couldn't fly.

RIDDLER Because Oct 31 represents the octal (base 8) number 31, which, when converted to decimal, is 25. Dec 25 is short for December 25, thus the two are equal.

BULL'S EYE
atoot, atom, font, foot, FOOTMAN, moat, moot, onto

FAST FIVE

S	T	A	R	T
C	I	D	E	R
A	B	I	D	E
L	I	E	U	S
D	A	U	B	S

STRIKE OUT

T	H	I	N	K		P	H	I	L	A	I	C		
A	R		A	N				B				R		
K	E	N	E	R		T	O	B	A	G	O			
E			C		R				C			O		
F	A	L	A	C	E		A	G	O	U	T	I		
A		I		A	R	O	N			R		T		
N	O	R	D	I	C		B	I	R	T	H	S		
W		F	E	N		F		Y	E	S		E		
O		K	A	R	L	O	F	F				U		
D		L	O	M		A		I	N	S		O		
S	T	U	P	O	R		O	S	I	E	R	S		
E		F		G	E	A	R	S		S		S		
A	R		A	N		T	O	B	A	G	O			
K	E	N	E	R		T	O	B	A	G	O			
G	A	S	H		A	D	D		A	K	I	N		

QUICK

P	E	N	U	L	T	I	M	A	T	E				
S		R		E		L		R		S				
R	E	M	A	R	K		O	P	T	O	U	T		
A		E		O	R	C		E				O		
G	A	L	L	E	Y		E	N	T	R	A	P		
A		E		E		O		O		O		O		
N	O	V	I	C	E		C	Y	G	N	E	T		
A		O		M		A		O		S				
Y	O	N	D	E	R		D	R	E	D	G	E		
A		E		E	W	E		L		O				
J	O	B	L	O	T		S	H	Y	I	N	G		
A		I		N		A		T		E				
S	H	A	M	E	L	E	S	S	L	Y				

MENSA PUZZLE
6. Start with the numbers along the top right diagonal of the diagram, and add pairs of adjacent numbers together, putting the result in the square to the lower left of the original pair of numbers. Continue in this way towards the lower left hand corner.

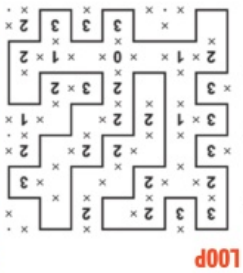
SUDOKU

8	6	1	9	3	4	5	2	7
5	4	9	2	7	8	6	3	1
2	3	7	1	6	5	8	9	4
3	2	4	6	5	9	7	1	8
9	7	5	8	1	2	4	6	3
1	8	6	7	4	3	9	5	2
7	1	2	4	9	6	3	8	5
4	9	3	5	8	1	2	7	6
6	5	8	3	2	7	1	4	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, As, Sad, Said, Raids, Drains, Inroads.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 7 + 5 + 8 = 28
Medium
8 - 6 + 8 + 5 = 15
Hard
4 x 7 - 8 + 7 = 27

LOOP



KAKURO

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